

Amendment "B"

Please withdraw claims 5 and 14, and amend claims 1, 6, 10 and 13, all as indicated below. The state of the claims following this Amendment "B" is as follows:

Claim 1 (currently amended). A method of binding a plurality of sheets into a bound sheet stack, comprising:

providing a first sheet and a second sheet, ~~at least one of the sheets having a protective coating applied to a least a portion thereof;~~

printing on at least a portion of the first or second sheet;

following printing on the first or second sheet, applying a protective coating to at least a portion of the first or second sheet;

following applying the protective coating, overlaying the first and second sheets so that at least a portion of the protective coating on the at least one sheet contacts the other sheet; and

following overlaying the first and second sheets, applying a binding energy to a binding region defined on the first and second sheets to thereby bind the sheets into a sheet stack, the binding region comprising a selected area of the protective coating on the at least one sheet, the selected area being in contact with the other sheet.

Claim 2 (original). The method of claim 1, and wherein the binding energy comprises at least one of heat, pressure, ultrasonic energy, or electromagnetic energy.

Claim 3 (original). The method of claim 1, and wherein the binding energy comprises a combination of heat and pressure.

1 Claim 4 (original). The method of claim 1, and wherein the binding energy is selected to
2 cause the protective coating on the at least one sheet to substantially fuse to the other
3 sheet in binding region.

4
5 Claim 5 (withdrawn). The method of claim 1, and wherein the binding energy is selected
6 to cause the protective coating on the at least one sheet to partially fuse to the other
7 sheet in binding region.

8
9 Claim 6 (currently amended). The method of claim 1, and further comprising:

10 following applying a protective coating to at least a portion of the first or second
11 sheet, providing a third sheet which has a protective coating applied to at least a portion
12 thereof;

13 printing on at least a portion of the third sheet;

14 following printing on the third sheet, applying a protective coating to at least a
15 portion of the third sheet;

16 following applying a protective coating to at least a portion of the third sheet,
17 laying the third sheet onto the sheet stack so that so that at least a portion of the
18 protective coating on the third sheet contacts one of the first or the second sheet; and

19 following laying the third sheet onto the sheet stack, applying the binding energy
20 to the binding region to thereby bind the third sheet to the sheet stack.

21
22 Claim 7 (original). The method of claim 1, and wherein the first and second sheets are
23 each defined by a first edge, and when the sheets are overlaid, the first edges of the
24 sheets substantially coincide, and further wherein the binding region extends inwardly
25 from the first edge of the sheets.

1 Claim 8 (original). The method of claim 1, and wherein:

2 the sheets are each further defined by a first corner;

3 when the sheets are overlaid, the respective first corners substantially coincide;

4 and

5 the binding region is located at the first corner of the sheets.

6
7 Claim 9 (original). The method of claim 1, and further comprising, prior to applying the
8 binding energy, folding the first sheet to thereby create a first sheet folded edge, and
9 folding the second sheet to thereby create a second sheet folded edge, and wherein the
10 binding region extends along the folded edges of the sheets.

11
12 Claim 10 (currently amended). A method of producing a bound document, comprising
13 sequentially:

14 providing a first sheet of media;

15 providing a second sheet of media;

16 generating an image on the ~~second~~first sheet of media;

17 applying a protective coating to the ~~second~~first sheet of media;

18 laying the second sheet onto the first sheet so at least a portion of the protective
19 coating on the ~~second~~first sheet contacts the ~~first~~second sheet; and

20 applying a binding energy to a preselected binding region of the first and second
21 sheets to thereby bind the sheets into a sheet stack.

22
23 Claim 11 (original). The method of claim 10, and wherein the binding energy is applied
24 in the form of at least one of heat, pressure or ultrasonic energy.

1 Claim 12 (original). The method of claim 10, and wherein the first and second sheets of
2 media are each defined by a respective first edge, and when the second sheet is laid
3 onto the first sheet, the respective first edges of the sheets substantially coincide.

4
5 Claim 13 (currently amended). The method of claim 12, and further comprising
6 sequentially:

7 providing a third sheet of media which is defined by a first edge;
8 generating an image on the ~~third~~second sheet of media;
9 applying a protective coating to the ~~third~~second sheet of media;
10 laying the third sheet onto the second sheet so at least a portion of the protective
11 coating on the ~~third~~second sheet contacts the ~~second~~third sheet and so that the
12 respective first edges of the sheets substantially coincide; and
13 applying the binding energy to the preselected binding area to thereby bind the
14 third sheet into the sheet stack.

15
16 Claim 14 (withdrawn). The method of claim 13, and wherein the binding energy is first
17 applied to the first and second sheets to form a sheet sub-stack, and the binding energy
18 is then applied to the third sheet and the sheet sub-stack to form the sheet stack.

19
20 Claim 15 (original). The method of claim 13, and wherein the binding energy is applied
21 to the first, the second and the third sheets simultaneously to form the sheet stack.

22
23 Claim 16 (original). The method of claim 10, and wherein the binding energy is applied
24 so as to cause the protective coating on at least one of the sheets to become plastic in
25 the preselected binding region.

Claims 17-24 (cancelled).